By the King.

¶ Orders for the Poſtes of Our Realmes, and for all men to obſerue and obey in the ſpeedie cariage of Packets, directed for Our Affaires.

WHereas heretofore the Lords of the Priuie Councell to the Queene Our ſiſter deceaſed, for great and weightie cauſes concerning the State, haue endeauored to ſet downe, and publiſh ſundry Orders, and generall directions for matters of Poſting, eſpecially for the ſpeedie diſpatch of Packets and Letters importing the Princes immediate Affaires, the colour whereof ſeruing priuate turnes, hath greatly fruſtrated their endeauours:

It is now therefore, for the better warrantiſe and direction of Our Poſts, thought meete and conuenient, that the former Orders bee reuiued, and (according to the neceſſitie of the times) renewed and publiſhed in Our name in manner as followeth.

1. FIrſt, euery Poſt receiuing a daily Fee, and entertained ſpecially for the Packet, according to the proportion of his wages by the day, ſhall keepe certaine Horſes, to the number of two at the leaſt, with furniture conuenient, and thoſe alwayes to haue at hand in a readineſſe to run with our Packets onely in Poſt, ſo ſoone as the ſame are brought to his hands. He ſhall haue alſo two Bags of Leather at the leaſt, well lined with Bayes or Cotton, to cary the Packet in, and Hornes to ſound and blow, as oft as he meets company, or foure times in euery mile.

2. EVery Poſt thus furniſhed, ſhall at all houres receiue and cary, or ſend away, all Packets or Letters brought vnto him, directed for Our ſpeciall affaires, dated on the outſide, with the time and place of their firſt deliuery, and ſubſcribed by the hands of Our Principall Secretaries, and Maſter & Comptroller generall of the Poſtes: and for matters of the Naue, or to the Maritime Forts vpon the Sea coaſts, or principall Port Townes, by Our Admirall of England: For matters of the Cinque Ports, by Our Warden: For matters of Scotland. by Our Treaſurer and Secretarie of Scotland: And for Ireland, by Our Lieutenant there, or addreſſed to them in the proper buſineſſe of their places, or to the body of Our Councell, from what perſons or places whatſoeuer: Of whoſe names, and addreſſe onely, the Poſtes ſhall take notice, according to the firſt Inſtitution, and originall vſe of their ſeruice, and of none other.

3. EVery Poſt ſo receiuing Our Packets, directed and ſubſcribed as aboueſaid, ſhall within one quarter of an houre at the moſt after they come to his hands, diſpatch them away in Poſt, and ſhall runne therewith in Summer (that is, from the firſt of Aprill to the laſt of September) after ſeuen miles the houre: and in Winter (which ſhall be eſteemed the reſt of the yeere) after fiue miles the houre at the leaſt, as the Wayes afford and the weather fall out.

4. AND that it may appeare from time to time (when, and as often as it ſhal be required) with what care and diligence the ſeruice is at all hands applied and performed, Euery Poſt ſhall keepe a large and faire leger paper booke to enter Our Packets in, as they ſhall be brought vnto him, with the day of the moneth, houre of the day or night, that they came firſt to his handes, together with the name of him or them, by whom or vnto whom they were ſubſcribed and directed, taking and entring onely ſuch for Our Packets, as come warranted as aforeſaid, and all others to paſſe as by-Letters.

5. LAſtly, to the ende that the Poſtes generally may the better attend their ſeuerall Seruices, and performe their dueties in that behalfe, Our pleaſure is, that they and euery of them ſhall brooke and enioy the benefite of all former fauours allowed them, Namely, That they and their ſeruants be holden free and exempted from all Preſts and attendances at Aſſiſes, Seſſions, Inqueſts, and Muſters.

Signed by his Maieſtie, and ſubſcribed by Charles Stanhop Knight of the Bath, Lord Stanhop of Harington, Maſter and Comptroller generall of his Highneſſe Poſtes.

God ſaue the King.

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